[*Translation*]

Development of Tourism in U.P.

1955. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIAL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme is under the consideration of the Government to promote religious places in Uttar Pradesh from the tourism point of view;

(b) if so, the action taken so far by the Government in this regard; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHIR MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Development of tourist infrastructure at various places of pilgrimage is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance on specific projects/schemes based on their merit, availability of funds and interest priorities. In addition to this, the Central Government have given Income exemption on 50% of the income and full exemption from expenditure Tax for a period of 10 years for hotels to be constructed at places of pilgrimage.

(b) and (c). The Central Department of Tourism interalia has provided assistance for the augmentation of tourist facilities at places of pilgrimage which include Allahabad, Ayodhya, Haridwar, Varanasi, Brindavan, Mathura, etc. Further, a project for strengthening of tourist Infrastructural facilities at important Buddhist centres in the State is also under implementation.

Encroachment of Railways land

1956. SHRI MOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any major project for the utilisation of the unused railway land is under consideration of the Government; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b). Most of the railway land lying vacant at present is required for Railways' future developmental works. It is proposed to explore the feasibility of commercially exploiting space over railway land and land presently lying vacant, without obstructing the use of the land by Railways when required, with a view to generating additional resources for Railways' developmental projects.

[*English*]

Charging of Registration Fees

1957. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any directives have been issued to all schools not to charge registration fee;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken to ensure its compliance?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Health of Children

1958. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any scheme has been formulated for improving the health of children; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The programmes being implemented for improving the health of children include the Universal Immunization Programme which provides immunization to children against sixe vaccine preventable diseases; Oral Rehydration Therapy Programme, which seeks to prevent deaths due to dehydration in diarrohea Programme of Prophylaxis against Nutritional Anaemia and blindness by providing Iron/Folic Acid Tablets and Vit 'A' respectively. A pilot Project in 24 districts to Control Acute Respiratory Infections by giving the anti-microbial Contrimoxazole' is also being implemented.

Besides this, School, Health Programme; fortification of salt with Iodine to prevent Iodine deficiency, Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme of the Department of Women and Child Development and other schemes of the Department of Foods which inter-alia include fortification of Milk with Vitamin 'A' are being implemented for improving the health of children.

Introduction of 'Heritage on Wheels'

1959. DR. C. SILVERA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce 'Heritage on Wheels' train;

(b) if so, the special features of the train including the distance proposed to be covered, its fare structure, categories of compartments and other facilities to be provided therein;

(c) whether the Government propose to introduce more such trains for highlighting culture of other regions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) It has been decided to introduce a 'Palace on Wheels' type train in Southern sector for promoting tourism.

(b) These details have not been finalised so far.

(c) At present, there is no such proposal.

(d) Indian Railways' vast network and complement of thousands of passenger carrying trains provide an excellent window to the culture of various regions of the country. Besides, several superfast and inter-city trains have already been introduced providing linkage to the centres of cultural heritage.

National Wastelands Development Board

1960. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to restructure the National Wastelands Developme]nt Board to make it more effective; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b). The National Wastelands Development Board was established in May 1985. A re-